

Message Text

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22-12

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 230950Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5833

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

DIA WASHDC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TH, LA

SUBJECT: EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES BETWEEN THAI AND LAO FOREIGN
MINISTERS

1. THAI FOREIGN MINISTER CHATICHAI CHOONHAVAN AND
LAO FOREIGN MINISTER PHOUNE SIPRASEUTH HAVE EXCHANGED
MESSAGES ON THE OCCASION OF THE FORMATION OF THE
PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF LAOS. BOTH EXPRESSED
A DESIRE FOR GOOD RELATIONS.

2. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT, AS PUBLISHED IN SIENG
PASASON DEC 19, OF THE THAI TELEGRAM, WHICH WAS DATED DEC 9.
"HIS EXCELLENCY PHOUNE SIPRASEUTH,
ACCORDING TO THE REPORT OF THE THAI EMBASSY AT VIENTIANE,
YOU SENT IT A NOTE, NO. 489 OF DECEMBER 9, 1975, IN WHICH
YOU ANNOUNCED THAT THE KINGDOM OF LAOS HAD BECOME THE
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PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF LAOS OF WHICH TIAO

SOUPHANOUVONG IS THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC AS WELL AS PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY, MR. KAYSONE PHOMVIHANE IS THE PRIME MINISTER AND YOURSELF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. IN THIS NOTE, YOU ALSO INDICATED THAT THE FOREIGN POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PDRL WOULD BE BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF INDEPENDENCE, PEACE, FRIENDSHIP AND NON-ALIGNMENT. IN ADDITION THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PDRL WILL STRENGTHEN FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN PEOPLES AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE SAFEGUARDING OF WORLD PEACE. AND YOU EXPRESSED YOUR HOPE THAT THE EXISTING RELATIONS BETWEEN THAILAND AND LAOS CONTINUE AND BE STRENGTHENED FROM DAY TO DAY.

" I AM INFORMED OF THESE CHANGES AND I AM PLEASED TO LEARN THAT YOU WILL CONTINUE TO OCCUPY YOUR IMPORTANT POST. IN ADDITION, I AM PLEASED WITH YOUR STATEMENT CONFIRMING RELATIONS BETWEEN THAILAND AND LAOS. I HOPE ALSO THAT THE FRATERNAL RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES ARE STRENGTHENED. THAILAND WOULD BE HAPPY TO SEE LAOS REALIZE SUCCESS IN THE AREA OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, AND TO SEE A PROSPEROUS, PEACEFUL, UNIFIED AND COMPLETELY INDEPENDENT LAOS. IT WOULD BE TO ADVANTAGE OF LAOS FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA." END TEXT.

3. THE LAO FOREIGN MINISTER'S REPLY, WHICH IS DATED DEC 15 AND ALSO APPEARED IN SIENG PASASON ON DEC 19, FOLLOWS:

" HIS EXCELLENCY CHATICHAI CHOONHAVAN,

I WAS VERY HAPPY TO RECEIVE YOUR TELEGRAM OF DEC 9, 1975 WHICH WAS GIVEN TO ME BY THE THAI AMBASSADOR AT VIENTIANE AND IN WHICH YOU EXPRESSED YOUR HOPE THAT FRATERNAL RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO BROTHER COUNTRIES WOULD BE FURTHER STRENGTHENED ON THE BASIS OF EQUALITY AND MUTUAL RESPECT OF INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY.

IN ADDITION YOU STATED THAT THAILAND WOULD BE HAPPY TO SEE LAOS REALIZE SUCCESS IN THE AREA OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TO SEE A PROSPEROUS, PEACEFUL, UNIFIED AND COMPLETELY INDEPENDENT LAOS. I AM HAPPY TO LEARN

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OF YOUR GOOD INTENTIONS AND I THANK YOU FOR THEM. I AM CONVINCED THAT FRIENDLY RELATIONS, OF COOPERATION AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE, ON THE BASIS OF RECIPROCAL INTERESTS, BETWEEN OUR BROTHER PEOPLES, WILL CONTINUE TO DEVELOP."

END TEXT.

4. COMMENT: BANGKOK AND VIENTIANE APPEAR TO BE PRESERVING

THE CIVILITIES IN THEIR FORMAL EXCHANGES. THE THAI CLOSURE OF THE BORDER HAS CAUSED CONSIDERABLE ECONOMIC DIFFICULTY IN VIENTIANE, WHICH HAS REACHED SUCH A LEVEL THAT THE PDRL AUTHORITIES ARE NOW ATTEMPTING TO HAVE THE BORDER OPENED (VIENTIANE 6631).

IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT CHATICHAI TALKS ABOUT GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN "COUNTRIES" WHILE PHOUNE TALKS ABOUT "PEOPLES." THE LAO COMMUNISTS MAKE THE UNUSUAL COMMUNIST DISTINCTION BETWEEN "GOVERNMENTS" AND "PEOPLES" WHEN TALKING ABOUT NON-COMMUNIST COUNTRIES AND PHOUNE, OF COURSE, COULD--CONSISTENTLY WITH HIS DECLARATION IN PARA 3--WORK FOR GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN THE THAI AND LAO "PEOPLES" WHILE SUBVERTING AND MAKING DIFFICULTIES FOR THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT.
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